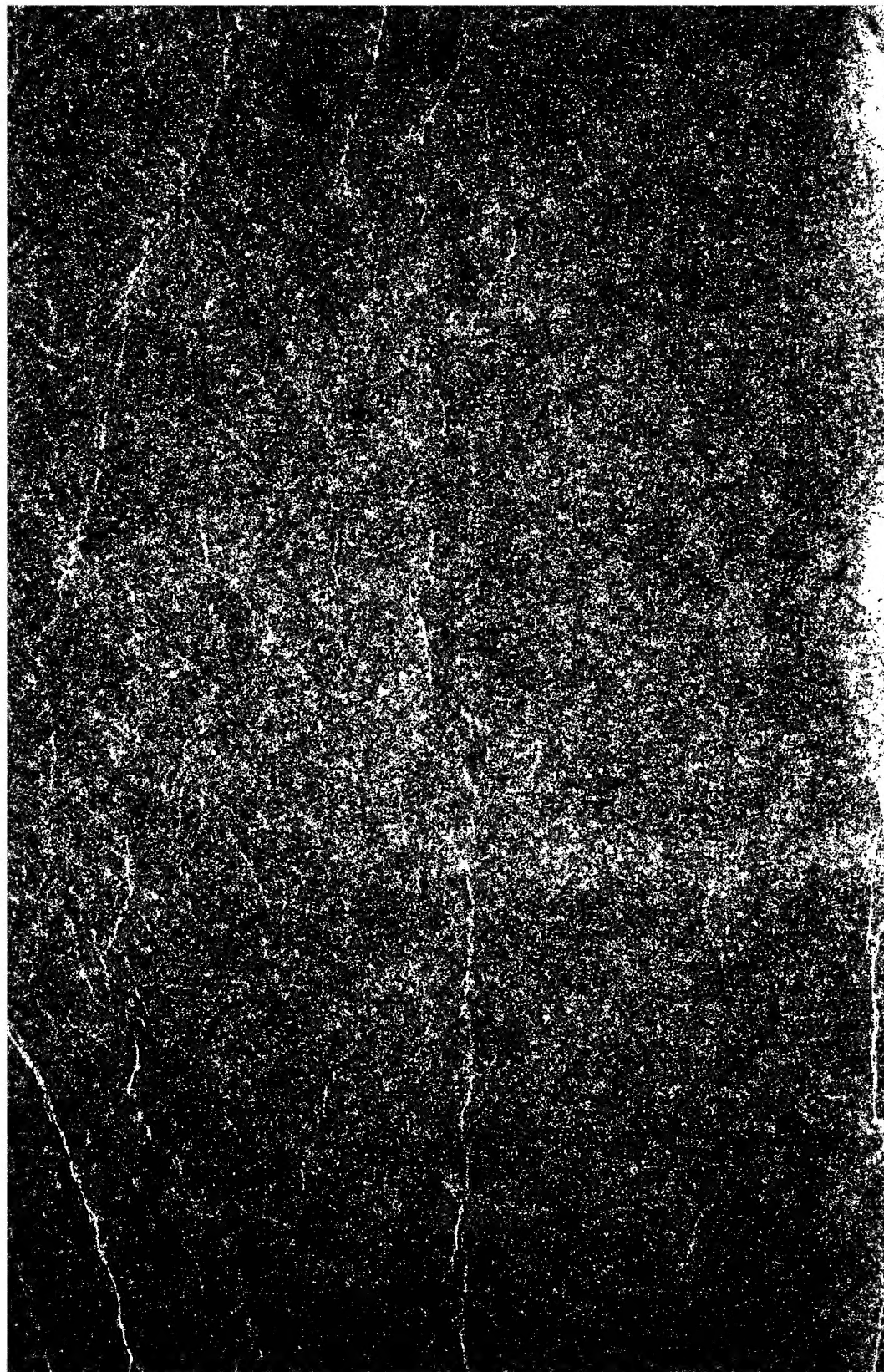


**THROUGH  
THE  
YEARS**

**KNOX  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

**CLEARWATER, MANITOBA**

**1893 - 1953**





**1893**

**1953**

PRINTED IN CRYSTAL CITY MAN.

THROUGH  
THE  
YEARS  
TO THE  
SIXTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
KNOX UNITED CHURCH  
Clearwater, Manitoba



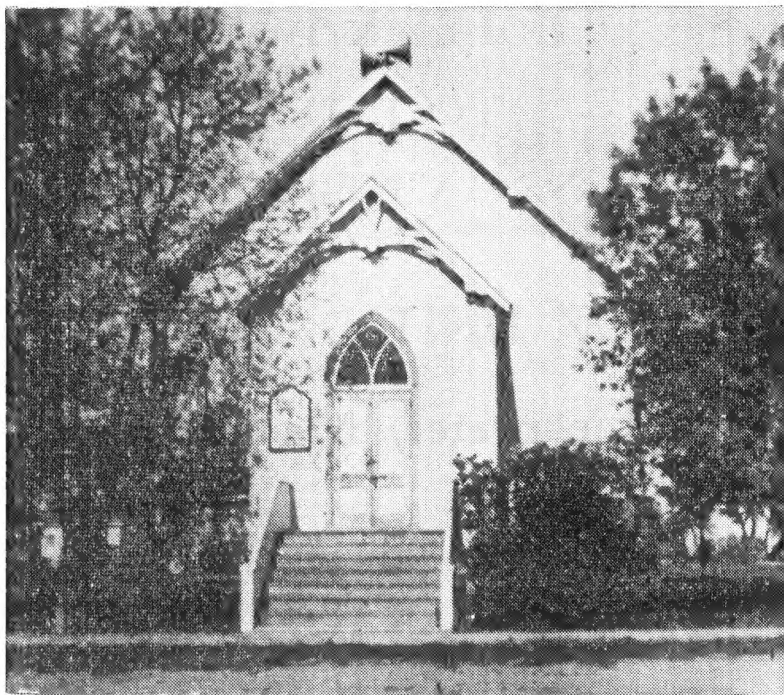
SEPTEMBER THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH

1953

HYMN 682

I joyed when to the house of God  
Go up, they said to me.  
Jerusalem, within thy gates  
Our feet shall standing be.

Jerusalem as a city is  
Compactly built together:  
Unto that place the tribes go up,  
The tribes of God go thither.



Pray that Jerusalem may have  
Peace and felicity:  
Let them that love thee and thy peace  
Have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still  
Within thy walls remain,  
And ever may thy palaces  
Prosperity retain.

Now, for my friends' and brethren's sakes,  
'Peace be in thee,' Ill say.  
And for the house of God our Lord  
I'll seek thy good away. Amen.

# Church Officers

## 1893

MINISTER ..... Rev. J. A. Bowman, M.A.  
TRUSTEES ... J. Affleck, H. McKellar, J. Coulthard, J. Laidlaw, T. Bell  
ELDERS ..... J. Affleck, G. Mutch  
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ..... J. Affleck  
ORGANIST ..... Miss Helen Laidlaw  
LADIES AID PRESIDENT ..... Mrs. J. Laidlaw  
LADIES AID SECRETARY ..... Miss Nettie Taylor

## 1953

MINISTER ..... Rev. E. R. Wilson, M.A.  
SESSION: A. Milne, E. R. Coulthard, R. G. Gardiner, J. W. McKellar.  
BOARD OF STEWARDS: R. J. Burgess, J. Corbett, Mrs. A. Milne, Mrs.  
W. McDonald, G. Gardiner, S. Gardiner.  
SEC.-TREAS. .... W. McDonald  
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT. .... J. Corbett, Stuart Gardiner  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ..... Mrs. Stuart Gardiner  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY PRESIDENT, Mrs. Gordon Gardiner  
EVENING FORUM PRESIDENT ..... Mrs. W. McDonald  
ORGANISTS ..... Mrs. T. Grant and Mr. Norval Olson  
CHOIR LEADER ..... Mrs. J. W. McKellar



# Ministers

## Who served the Clearwater Church

### METHODIST

Rev. A. Stewart, D.D. ....	1880-1882
Rev. J. W. Bell, B.D. ....	1882-1884
Rev. D. S. Houck, assistant to Rev. Bell	
Rev. C. Crichton ....	1884-1887
Rev. Wm. Kinley ....	1887-1888
Rev. A. Stewart ....	1888-1889
Rev. T. C. Buchanan, D.D. ....	1889-1892
Rev. J. H. L. Joslyn ....	1892-1895
Rev. F. B. Stacey, B.A. ....	1895-1899
Rev. G. F. McCullagh ....	1899-1903
Rev. F. W. Locke, B.A. ....	1903-1907
Rev. W. A. Cooke, B.A., D.D. ....	1907-1910
Rev. T. G. Bethel, B.A., B.D. ....	1910-1913
Rev. W. A. Adamson ....	1913-1917
Rev. D. R. Patterson ....	1917-1921

### PRESBYTERIAN

Rev. Jas. Farquharson, D.D., Travelling Missionary ...	1880-1893
Rev. J. A. Bowman, M.A. ....	1893-1900
Rev. E. Mason ....	1901-1911
Rev. J. S. Miller, M.A. ....	1912-1921
(Rev. Edward Lee and Rev. L. A. Bygrave served during Mr. Miller's leave as army chaplain, 1917-1919)	

### UNITED

Rev. R. H. Gilmour, B.A., B.D. ....	1921-1926
Rev. Jos. Hunter, B.A. ....	1926-1932
Rev. S. C. Studd, B.A., D.D. ....	1932-1940
Rev. F. W. Samis, B.A. ....	1941-1942
Rev. H. Kay, B.A., B.D., S.T.M. ....	1942-1947
Rev. F. E. Madden, B.A. ....	1947-1949
Rev. E. R. Wilson, M.A. ....	1949-





## GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

During the years of 1879 and 1880 the western trend of settlers brought to us our early pioneers. These people were descendents of a sturdy, honest, and Godfearing race, and thus we find a group of settlers who, once the task of building their own homes was finished, set about to build a place of worship. "When we build, let us think that we build forever; that those who come after us may say, 'See! this our fathers did for us'." Such was the motto of those early pioneers.

Rev. John Borthwick, pioneer missionary of the Presbyterian Church, was the first minister to cross the Pembina River in 1879. During 1880 he made occasional visits to the Rock Lake district. Rev. James Farquharson then a Presbyterian student, came to Pilot Mound and ministered to the whole territory. Worthy of note is the fact that on Sunday, March 6, 1882, a terrible blizzard raged across these open prairies. Rev. Farquharson for a time became lost between house and stable, when out caring for his horse (Nellie), prior to leaving on his circuit. Mrs. Farquharson insisted he remain at home. This was the only time he missed service in Clearwater. Some years later, Nellie came to a sad end. While being cared for in the barn belonging to Mr. Malcolm McKellar, the barn caught fire and Nellie perished along with other stock before help came.

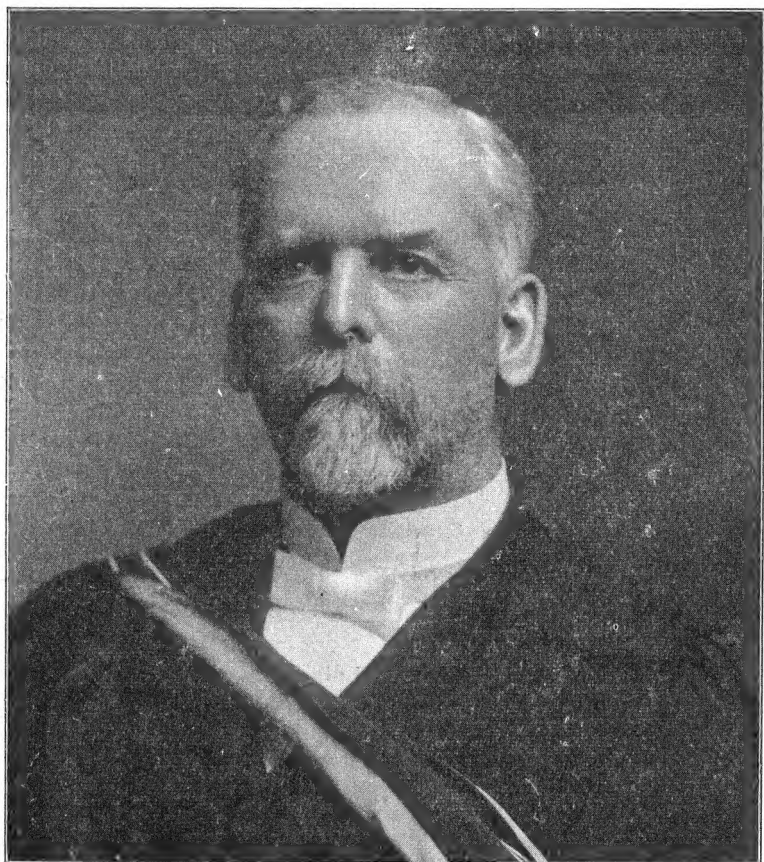
Rev. Andrew Stewart, of the Methodist Church, came to Crystal City about the same time. Services were held in settlers' homes, but the work of greatest value of these beloved ministers was their pastoral visits to the homes of that large territory. Scripture reading and prayer and words of encouragement helped the settlers greatly in their lonely homes on the storm-swept prairies.

In 1883 the Clearwater school was built, and services were held there. School seats were not very comfortable for adults. Fortunately there were two benches, one along each side, on which the men sat. In those days there were no screens and, being a school room where lunches were eaten, flies gathered in great numbers. There was no pulpit, just the teacher's table, and a little organ played by Annie Affleck (Mrs. Frank Collins' cousin). People drove in wagons or buggies if they had them, but they were scarce. The horses had to be unhitched and tied to a wagon wheel or fence post; flies bothered them; they stamped and harness rattled, but the services went on.

While work was hard and conditions were far from easy, many were the sociable gatherings held in the homes as the country became built up and through this work and friendly gatherings many a romance sprang into being. Maggie Laidlaw and Richard Thurtell were the first couple married by Rev. Farquharson.

Other early marriages were: John Coulthard and Jane McKay, 1882; James McGregor and Elsie McLaren, 1882; John Campbell and Lizzie Clegg, 1883; Frank Collins and Annie Affleck, 1888; Thos. Bell and Annie Reynolds, 1889.

In 1886, Oak School was built. Service was he'd in the school. Mr. Gilbert, Sr., was organist, taking his organ with him from his home. Mr. John Affleck was superintendent of Sunday School and up until the opening of Oak School had service in his home. Rev. Farquharson of Pilot Mound was minister.



REV. ANDREW STEWART. D.D.

The story is told that on a certain Sunday afternoon the people had gathered in the Affleck home for service. The largest room was being used for service and had been filled with rows of planks for seats. A large rag carpet was used to partition this room off from the rest of the house. While the minister was delivering his address, one of the men leaned back against the wall (as he thought)—and away he went. Mrs. Collins said, and we quote: "All that could be seen of him was his feet up on the planks. We had to laugh"—but he gathered himself up and the service continued.

## BUILDING THE CHURCH

Not many years went by until the people felt the need of a proper place of worship. A congregational meeting was held in the school house July 7, 1891. A lengthy discussion followed as to which would be the more advisable to build, a hall or a church. Rev. D. D. McKay gave his experiences and opinions that a hall as a place of worship was not satisfactory, so it was decided that a Presbyterian Church should be built. The building was to be 28 feet by 40 feet and estimated cost to be between \$800 and \$900. The Church Building Fund was to be applied for to the amount of \$200, which could be secured at a low rate of interest. The committee appointed to secure estimates of costs, etc., were Messrs. J. Affleck, J. Laidlaw, H. McKellar, P. McLaren and T. Bell.

Trustees to select the church site and hold the church deed were Messrs. J. Affleck, J. Coulthard, H. McKellar, J. Laidlaw and T. Bell. The first lots selected were Lots 5 and 6 in Block 70, but as the congregation considered this location too low and wet a second choice was made—Lots 11 and 12 in Block 46. These lots seemed suitable to all and were applied for.

When decisions as to size and location of the building were settled, the building committee applied to Mr. Robert Blackburn to make plans and specifications.

In July of 1892 the committee found it necessary to apply to the building fund for \$600 instead of \$200, but \$500 was the amount received. As the season was coming on toward harvest, it was thought feasible to delay letting the contract until the busy season would be over.

The contract was now let to Mr. H. Brewster, for the sum of \$1,450, the work to begin in a few weeks, but as he had not started work by April, the contract was re-let to Mr. James Laidlaw for \$1,625. The building committee was each to haul two loads of stone for the foundation. Very little record is left us of the actual building of the church, but from first-hand knowledge we know that Mr. James McIntyre was one of the carpenters who helped Mr. Jas. Laidlaw.

During the building of the church our new minister arrived. Rev. J. A. Bowman came June 3, 1893. In the meantime a manse had been built at Crystal City and Rev. Bowman brought his bride there in November of that same year. Rev. Bowman's charge was Crystal City, Clearwater and Eton.

Our church was dedicated November 26, 1893, by Dr. Andrew Baird and Dr. Jas. Farquharson, assisted by Rev. J. A. Bowman. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Baird and Dr. Farquharson led in the dedicatory prayer.

There were three services that day. The morning service was taken by Dr. Farquharson, the afternoon by Rev. Goslin the Methodist minister, and the evening by Dr. Baird. An entertainment followed the next evening; supper was served in the hall and the concert held in the church.

Very little information has been found about this first concert. Miss Nellie Laidlaw was organist and worked very hard that all musical numbers should be as nearly perfect as possible. Practice for this was held in Mr. Gilbert's home. Will Young and Rev. Bowman also gave some Scotch readings and Jim Stoddart gave a humorous reading called, "To be shaken before taken."



REV. J. A. BOWMAN, M.A.

The first Anniversary services were taken by Ralph Connor (Dr. Gordon), who also spoke on the Monday. His address was a story of his trip on the Continent.

Special music was prepared for the three services. Two of the anthems were "Abide With Me" and "Sun of My Soul," set in anthem form.

At this time Rev. Bowman had a joint Session, Mr. G. Mutch and Mr. J. Affleck, who met at Crystal City. After Mr. Affleck's death, Mr. Malcolm McKellar of Pilot Mound was appointed October 24, 1895, by Presbytery to act until another was appointed.

In May of 1896, Mr. J. Laidlaw and Mr. Watson were appointed Elders. Two weeks later these men were examined, and Session being satisfied as to their piety, prudence and knowledge of Divine Truth and of the governing and discipline of the Church, and duties of Eldership, the following Friday was set apart as Ordination and Induction of Elders. Dr. Farquharson took part in the service.

In 1898 a new board of trustees was appointed—Mr. F. J. Collins for three years, Mr. J. B. Coulthard for two years and Mr. J. Laidlaw for one year.

As the years went by, Anniversary services were held each fall. Anniversary always meant three services, with the afternoon service being made very special for the children of the Sunday School. This was always followed on the Monday evening with a fowl supper and entertainment. This was found to be very helpful, financially and spiritually, to the social life of our church and community.

Soon after our church was built a request, presented by Mr. McLaren, came from the Methodist members of our district as to the possibility of holding service in the Presbyterian Church. This request was presented to a meeting of the church board and after some discussion the Session granted them permission. From then until the time of Union, Methodist service was held in the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning. Part of the time our service was held in the evening and so at that time we held our Sunday School after the Methodist service.

Rev. J. A. Bowman held weekly prayer meeting on Thursday evening. Someone remarked that Rev. Bowman was quite enthusiastic over football and was usually found before the meeting with the young men on the football field. When eight o'clock came he was heard to remark, "Eight o'clock, boys, time for prayer meeting," and so Rev. Bowman and "boys" crossed over to the church. This weekly prayer meeting was carried on for a great number of years.

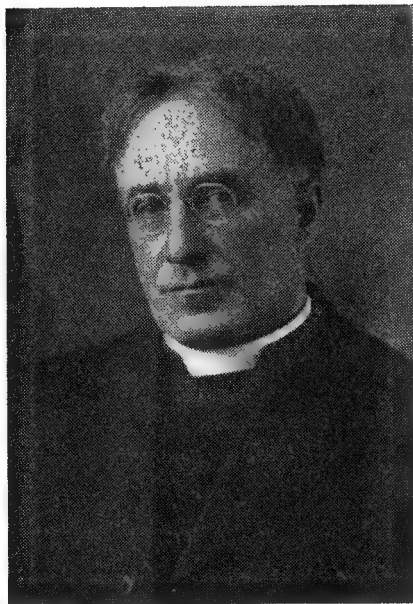
In 1910 the Adult Bible Class was organized—President, Mr. Laidlaw; Vice-President, Mr. Collins; Teacher, Mr. A. Craig. This was a very active class which functioned many years. Besides the Sunday meetings, monthly socials were held and at Christmas each year a banquet and entertainment were held when all the former classmates would be home.

During the war of 1914-18 quite a few of the young men of our church volunteered for active service overseas. A gathering was held before these men left and each was presented with a pocket-sized Testament.

At this time, Rev. J. S. Miller felt it was his duty to offer himself as Chaplain and handed in his resignation as pastor of this charge. While his resignation was not accepted, he was granted leave of absence until his return in 1919. Rev. Miller continued to minister to this field until Union in 1921.



REV. J. S. MILLER, M.A.



REV. R. H. GILMOUR, B.A., B.D.

For many years the Methodists held their service in the Presbyterian Church. Part of the time we had Sunday School at the close of their service. They had their own church board, revival meetings and Women's Missionary Society until after Union in 1924. The ministers who served Crystal City charge, served here. Mrs. A. Moore was one of the last organists and we are told they had quite a good choir of late years, with Mrs. Kenny, sister of the late Martin Beavis, as choir leader. A few years prior to Union, Methodist service was discontinued here.

In 1921, the Western churches took the necessary steps to form Union. This church along with other churches came under Union in 1921, with Rev. R. H. Gilmour as minister. Our first Communion as a United Church was November 13, 1921. We note in 1923 both Methodist and Presbyterian W.M.S. gave annual reports, and while meeting together, kept separate treasurers' accounts until Union was finally consummated in 1924.

Very little but the business meetings of the church had been recorded in the minutes of the church, until 1943, when plans were made for celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary. A committee was selected for making plans. This committee included: Rev. H. Kay, Miss E. Coulthard, Mrs. J. McKellar, Mr. R. Coulthard, Mr. M. Sandercock and Mrs. L. J. Gardiner.

All previous ministers and old friends of the church were invited and on Friday evening, November 26, we held our entertainment.

## THE JUBILEE

Friday evening, November 26, 1943, over two hundred people gathered in the church to pay tribute to the pioneers of our church on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Knox Church.

After the singing of a hymn, Rev. H. Kay as chairman named some of the charter members as The Laidlaws, Coulthards, Taylors, Afflecks, Collins, Bells, Sandercocks, McKellars, Campbells, McLarens and McEwens.

The Sunday School played its part in putting on a pageant, "Building the Church," and at the close while the church was still in darkness and the light shining from the newly-constructed church, they sang "The Church's One Foundation."

Greetings from the Carman Presbytery were read by Rev. McDonald of Pilot Mound and from the Anglican Church by Rev. H. Oldfield, also of Pilot Mound. Greetings and good wishes were read from the following members and friends: Rev. J. Hunter, Dugald; Misses Laidlaw, NaVarre; Rev. S. C. Studd, St. Vital; Rev. F. Smith Okatoks; E. T. Greenway, Crystal City; Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown, Fairmount; Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Ottawa; Mr. and Mrs. J. Morrison, Winnipeg; Mrs. Flossie Haines, Jordon River; Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Coulthard, Winnipeg; Mr. and Mrs. W. Werry, Winnipeg; Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Cartwright; Mrs. Emma Coleman, Mission City, B.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Lynd, Souris; Miss E. Collins, Winnipeg; Mr. J. Scurfield, Winnipeg; Mrs. J. T. Lovering, Emerson; Mrs. Sanders, Regina.

Mrs. Collins, a charter member, now of Winnipeg, told in an effective manner the early religious activities in the community prior to the building of the church, then of the building and of the church in its first years, and gave to the youth the challenge to "build well on the foundation laid by their forefathers".

We were then favored by a number from the choir.

Rev. J. A. Bowman, who was guest speaker on this occasion, had taken charge of this field as the first minister after the opening of the church. In his opening remarks he spoke to the children, then to the adults, then the older ones, with an appropriate message to each. After some happy reminiscing on lifelong friendships, he closed with the thought illustrated by a story of Christ's Friendship which assures us "I'll Gang Wi' Ye".

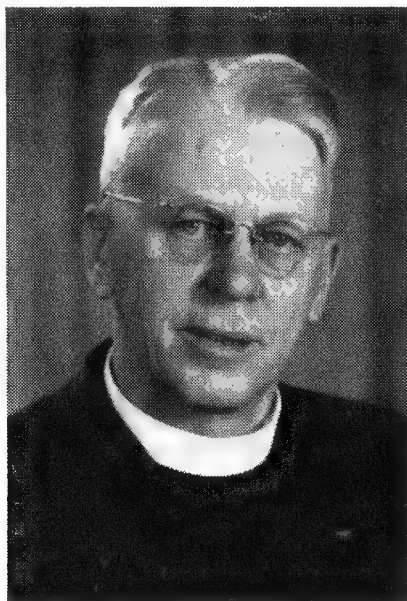
At the close of Mr. Bowman's address an old friend, Mr. Findlay McEwen, aged 94, on behalf of the congregation, presented him with a framed picture of the church and a leather-bound guest book, recalling some amusing incidents of his early ministry, to which Mr. Bowman replied in his happy and sociable manner.

The singing of another hymn brought this part of the Jubilee to a close and lunch was served by the Ladies Aid. After which Mr. Bowman renewed old acquaintances again, while as many as possible inscribed their names in the guest book.

Sunday, November 28, at three o'clock we had our Anniversary Service, conducted by Rev. H. Kay and Rev. J. A. Bowman. The Church was filled to overflowing, all the centre pews being reserved for the pioneer members and friends.

Mr. Bowman gave a stirring text, "He is able to save even unto the uttermost," showing that Christ can and does come to save human souls, not just for ourselves or a personal gain, but for some real purpose in life. The choir again did its share in making this a successful event. This was followed by the celebration of Holy Communion, administered by Mr. Bowman, with about seventy members partaking, a fitting close to this most auspicious event—the Fiftieth Jubilee of Knox United Church, Clearwater.

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REV. E. R. WILSON, M.A.

Very little has been written in the records of any special activity of the church since the Fiftieth Anniversary until 1950. It was then found necessary to replace the old organ with a new one. This change had been discussed for quite some time, so a committee was appointed to look after the business. This committee was Mr. R. G. Gardiner, Mr. J. McKellar, Mr. E. R. Coulthard, Mr. R. J. Burgess. An electric organ was purchased from Woodstock for \$965, through Mr. A. Sveinsson of Pilot Mound. Choir gowns had been received from Home St. United Church, Winnipeg, and new Hymnaries purchased. On Sunday, July 23, 1950, Rev. E. Wilson held a dedication service, his text being, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear Him before all the earth". In his address, Mr. Wilson spoke of the value this would be to the worship service and the help the choir had always been to him personally.



Tower chimes were installed a little later. These were purchased through, and installed by Mr. Birnie of Cartwright and were dedicated October 29, 1950. The text at this service was taken from 1 Chronicles, 16:31. "Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; and let man say among the nations, the Lord reigneth." Rev. E. R. Wilson again stressed the value and the pleasure these tower chimes would be at the regular Sunday services and also to the shut-ins, and spoke particularly of the part music played in the lives of people, and we must all realize how these additions have aided in the effectiveness of the church in the community.

## THE CHOIR

Always ready to lend a helping hand to make the service a little more inspiring was the choir. Before we even had a choir we heard of Mr. Gilbert Sr. taking his organ from place to place in order that he might do what he could to help the singing. Then, after an organ had been purchased, Miss Annie Affleck was spoken of as first organist.

At the time of the first Anniversary, Miss Helen Laidlaw was organist, and the choir included any who could help from Crystal City to Rock Lake. Some of the earliest choir members mentioned were Mrs. Collins, Margaret Affleck, Nettie Taylor, Mary Gilbert, Dick Gilbert, George Affleck and Bill Taylor. On this very special Anniversary the organist wanted everything as nearly perfect as possible, and as Dick tells us: "We practised and practised, O! how we practised!" But the men would not memorize their parts and so pinned their sheets of music to the one standing in front of them. Anniversary meant a lot of work in those days, one or two numbers for each service on Sunday and at least two numbers on the Monday evening.

Miss Maizie McKellar was the next organist, followed by Miss Elna Collins. Some of her choir members were Emma and Arthur Craig, Etta Gardiner, Kate Wall, Velma McKellar, Trassa Bell, Violet McLaren, Tena Coulthard, Dick Gilbert, Eldon McIn'yre and Willis Fiskel.

In speaking of Anniversary Services, Miss E. Collins adds an interesting note, and we quote: "Things did not always go off too well and there would be some anxious moments"—such as, "Would Dick return from his deer hunting?" "Would Eldon be on time?" "Would the weather be good?" Miss Collins continued as organist until 1927, leaving then to make her home in Winnipeg. Since then, Mrs. Grant has been organist with Norval Olson as assistant the last few years and with Mrs. McKellar as choir leader.

But it was not always Anniversary, and to the choir must go a great deal of credit for their faithfulness and untiring efforts in their contribution to the Master's Service.

## W. A. AND W. M. S.

Our women's work for the church started back even before we had a church, when services were held in the school house in the valley and afterwards in Cranston's Hall. The ladies met as a Ladies Aid group. Their meetings opened with devotional exercises, then quilt making or quilting, sometimes even sewing carpet rags together ready for the weaving. They served dinners at picnics, fairs and sometimes had a church or fowl supper. All money raised was handed over to the church treasurer to help pay the minister's salary or help with our new church.

Those were friendly times in our church and community. How those women accomplished so much, we today cannot understand. Besides caring for their large families, making all their clothing and all the food, they found time to care for the sick, helped new babies into the world, prepared the dead for burial. These were the women who laid the foundations for all our church societies. Mrs. Laidlaw was the first president and Nettie Taylor first secretary.

When our church was built and opened in 1893, the ladies held a tea and sale of sewing in Cranston's Hall. Mr. McEwen bought a quilt, wrapped it around our young bachelor minister and presented him with the quilt. Later, when this minister (Rev. J. A. Bowman) brought his bride among the ladies who were serving a dinner in our new church shed, we all wondered how a city bride would fit in with us. She had on a beautiful white dress, so she just pinned up her long skirt, helped with dishes or serving and was just one with us. So down through the years our minister's wives have ever been very helpful. To them much credit is due.

In 1913 two missionary societies were formed, one Methodist and one Presbyterian. Mrs. Robert Stevenson from Pilot Mound came over to organize the Presbyterian society, with Mrs. James McGregor as president and Mrs. J. E. Wall as secretary. The first president for the Methodist society was Mrs. Jas. McIntyre, with Miss Kate Wall as secretary. Almost always at the meetings quilt making or quilting was carried on, then devotions and a study period. Cypress also had a Missionary Society and each year in June we were invited to their meeting for study and entertainment.

In 1922 we had the first united Prayer service. We sent quilts to Robertson camp and the next year started an expense fund. Up until that time we had donated so much per member to this fund.

In February, 1926, we had a joint meeting, with Mrs. Jas. McIntyre and Mrs. Frank Wall telling of their work in Methodist mission fields during the past forty years, and Mrs. Jas. McGregor and Miss Elna Collins reporting for the Presbyterians. Mrs. M. Penman, with the help of a map, showed where our schools, hospitals and homes were and gave a short history of each. In April of that year our two societies were united, with Mrs. A. Craig as president and Mrs. W. Cranston as secretary. A Ladies Aid Society was again formed to look after repairing our church, with Mrs. R. G. Gardiner president and Mrs. Jas. McIntyre

secretary. From this time on our W.M.S. meetings were given over to devotional exercises and a study of our mission fields or schools. Our first Life Members, Mrs. John Coulthard and Mrs. Thomas Bell, were presented with certificates by the W.M.S. and with pins given by the Ladies Aid. The next year Mrs. Hector McKellar, Mrs. Wm. Gardiner, Mrs. Frank Collins and Mrs. John Sandercock were made Life Members.

During the depression years we sent baskets of food to very needy families in our own district; supplies of quilts, pillow cases, eggs and cookies to Gimli Fresh Air Camp; clothing to Teulon Girls' School; second-hand clothing to God's Lake and Indian schools; Christmas gifts and food to Central Mission, and supplies to Mrs. Williams who was helping in a girls' school in Korea during the unrest in China.

C.G.I.T. groups, Explorers groups, Mission bands, Cradle Roll and Tyros have been ably guided and directed through the years by capable members of the W.M.S.

We felt quite honored in 1947 when our W.M.S. president, Mrs. J. McKellar, was chosen as president of Carman Presbyterial, a position which she very ably filled.

In 1944 the younger members of our W.M.S. decided to form an Evening Auxiliary. Many were mothers of young children and felt they would be more free to attend meetings in the evening. Their first president was Mrs. Harold Caughlin; their secretary, Mrs. Gordon Penman. They had about twenty members. After a couple of years they were allocated for Missions but always helped with our parcels of clothing and food. In 1950 they decided again to join with us but in 1951 formed an Evening Forum, affiliated with the W.M.S.

The W.M.S. is one of the oldest Women's organizations. The work of Missionary nurses, deaconesses and teachers with their untiring ministry and the appreciation of the people show how worthwhile missionary work really is.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

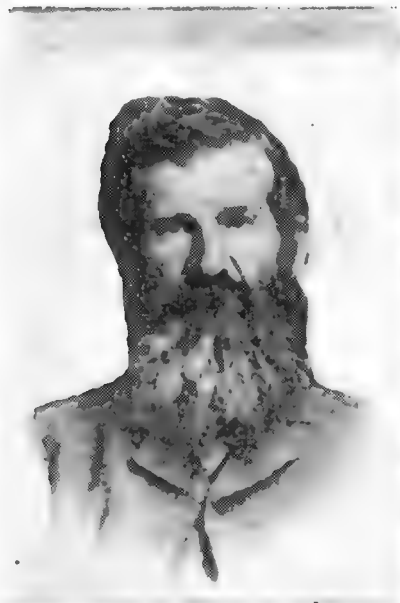
In the history of the church, we must not forget the importance of the Sunday School.

Mr. John Affleck was the first organizer and Superintendent of Sunday School work. Sometimes this was held in his own home, sometimes in the school house, later in the church.

It was his wish when he died that his life-long friend, Mr. James Laidlaw, should carry on his work which he had so ably started. This Mr. Laidlaw did, as long as health permitted.

The afternoon service at Anniversary was given over to the Sunday School, with special sermon for children, special anthems and hymns which were familiar to members of the Sunday School.

Also mentioned in the records was the Christmas Concert. This was held for many years in the church. It was planned and prepared by the Sunday School teachers. A few nights before the entertainment the teachers met and made candy bags of colored netting, one for each child in the district. These bags of red, blue, green and yellow—filled with candy—made many a bright spot on a rather drab Christmas tree.



JOHN AFFLECK



JAMES LAIDLAW

In 1932 Mrs. T. H. Williams (Kate McKellar) presented a Sunday School bell. This bell was hand made in Tibet, and was purchased from a curio dealer in Chengtu, West China.

With the changes and growth of the church, our classes were re-organized into graded classes with graded lessons, and from this branched out our Cradle Roll, C.G.I.T., Explorers, Trail Rangers and Tyro groups.

The Trail Ranger group, organized by Rev. S. C. Studd, was quite active. This led up to a very energetic Young People's Society, with Rev. F. Samis as leader. Then, under the guidance of Rev. H. Kay and leadership of Mrs. J. McKellar, our Easter Service of 1943 was most encouraging, when a group of fourteen young people entered into fellowship with the Church.

As this goes to press, we are now planning for our Sixtieth Anniversary. Some repairing and decorating will be done to the church before then. We hope to have Rev. J. A. Bowman as our guest speaker. We of this generation must surely realize this is a time for a new beginning and we must carry on in determination and faith as those early pioneers did; with the help of Him, who has said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."



#### HYMN 369

Father of men, in whom are one  
A'l humankind beneath Thy sun,  
Stablish our work in Thee begun.

Except the house be built of Thee,  
In vain the builder's toil must be;  
O streng'hen our infirmity!

Man lives not for himself alone,  
In others' good he finds his own;  
Life's worth in fellowship is known.

We, friends and comrades on life's way,  
Gather within these walls to pray:  
Bless Thou our fellowship to-day.

O Christ, our Elder Brother, who  
By serving man God's will didst do,  
Help us to serve our brethren, too.

Guide us to seek the things above,  
The base to shun, the pure approve,  
To live by Thy free law of love.

In all our work, in all our play,  
Be with us, Lord, our Friend, our Stay;  
Lead onward to the perfect day:

Then may we know, earth's lesson o'er  
With comrades missed or gone before,  
Heaven's fellowship for evemore. Amen



